

SENATE BILL 9054

By Niceley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 50,
relative to an employee's receipt of unemployment
benefits relative to COVID-19.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-7-303(a)(1), is amended by
adding the following as a new subdivision:

(C)

(i) The disqualification provided in subdivision (a)(1)(A) does not apply to
a claimant who left employment because the claimant's employer required its
employees to receive a COVID-19 vaccination, immunization, or injection and the
claimant refused to receive the COVID-19 vaccination, immunization, or injection.

(ii) For purposes of this section, a claimant who left the claimant's most
recent work voluntarily because of a refusal to receive an employer-mandated
COVID-19 vaccination, immunization, or injection is considered to have left with
good cause.

(iii) As used in this subdivision (a)(1)(C), "COVID-19" means the novel
coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, and coronavirus disease 2019, commonly referred to
as COVID-19, and includes a mutation of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-7-303(b)(3)(D), is amended by
adding the following as a new subdivision:

() Refusal to receive an employer-mandated COVID-19 vaccination,
immunization, or injection;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-7-211, is amended by deleting subsection (a) and substituting:

(a) An individual is deemed "unemployed" in any week during which:

(1) The individual performs no services and with respect to which no wages are payable to the individual, or in any week of less than full-time work if the wages payable to the individual with respect to the week are less than the individual's weekly benefit amount; or

(2) The individual is placed on unpaid leave because the individual refused to receive an employer-mandated vaccination, immunization, or injection for COVID-19. As used in this subdivision (a)(2), "COVID-19" means the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, and coronavirus disease 2019, commonly referred to as COVID-19, and includes a mutation of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.